

Richard

Propose Pact To Shield the War Newsmen

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Geneva, March 17 -- France proposed today an international agreement for the protection of reporters on dangerous missions.

A draft of the agreement, submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Commission here, would provide reporters in danger areas--any zone of armed conflict--with safe conduct cards.

The cards would be issued to reporters by the International Professional Committee for the Safety of Journalists Engaged in Dangerous Missions, a Swiss-based organization founded last year.

Same Treatment

Under the agreement parties to a conflict would extend to a foreign reporter the same treatment as their own journalists.

In the case of internment, regulations for the treatment of civilian internees, as laid down in the Geneva Convention, would apply. An internment would have to be made public, as would the wounding or death of a reporter.

The draft allows a reporter to wear a distinguishing mark, such as an arm band, at his discretion.

Delegation to Hanoi

The committee plans to send a delegation to Hanoi, Saigon and other Southeast Asian areas in an effort to gain recognition of a special press card and insignia for reporters covering the Vietnam war.

The delegation will seek news of 17 reporters missing in Cambodia. Nine newsmen have been killed in Cambodia, and nine were freed after having been captured.

Org. International
Professional Committee
for the Safety of
Journalists Engaged
in Dangerous Missions